

HOW THE NCAA WORKS:

Association-Wide

Each division governs its day-to-day needs, but on broad issues that affect college athletics as a whole, the NCAA Board of Governors and a collection of committees set the course for the Association.

While each NCAA division is empowered with setting its own rules and operating guidelines, some topics rise to a level affecting college sports as a whole and need a coordinated voice to guide the Association in a unified direction. For those situations, a group of committees comprising representatives from all three divisions makes recommendations that can impact the entire Association — whether a small, private Division III school or a national champion Football Bowl Subdivision program — equally.

The Association-wide committees work collaboratively with each division's governance bodies to recommend legislation. These committees explore issues impacting sports rules changes, the health and safety of student-athletes or opportunities for women and minority groups in college sports, and recommend changes to the appropriate legislative groups.

The NCAA Board of Governors, the highest-ranking committee in the Association, can implement policies by which all three divisions must abide. When the NCAA stopped allowing schools to host championships if their state governments displayed the Confederate flag, it was through a Board of Governors policy change.

Changes in legislation, however, require each division to take action. The Association-wide groups propose changes to the committees in each division, which then debate and vote on the proposals through their legislative processes.

ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES

<p>Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports</p> <p>Advocates for research, legislation and best practices supporting health and safety of student-athletes.</p> <p>23 members:</p> <p>3 medical doctors</p>	<p>Honors Committee</p> <p>Selects recipients of awards presented at annual Honors Celebration, including the Theodore Roosevelt and Inspiration awards.</p> <p>9 members:</p> <p>1 former NCAA honors recipient, 2 nationally distinguished citizens</p>	<p>Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee</p> <p>Reviews issues related to the interests of ethnic and racial minorities and women.</p> <p>18 members:</p>
<p>Olympic Sports Liaison Committee</p> <p>Facilitates communication among the NCAA, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing bodies of Olympic sports.</p> <p>14 members:</p>	<p>Postgraduate Scholarship Committee</p> <p>Selects 174 student-athletes to receive NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships for graduate school.</p> <p>7 members:</p> <p>1 former NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship winner</p>	<p>Research Committee</p> <p>Evaluates, supervises and coordinates the Association's research activities.</p> <p>10 members:</p>
<p>Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct</p> <p>Promotes the values of respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility in college sports.</p> <p>11 members:</p>	<p>Walter Byers Scholarship Committee</p> <p>Selects academically and athletically distinguished student-athletes to receive scholarships.</p> <p>6 members:</p>	<p>Committee on Women's Athletics</p> <p>Studies and makes policy recommendations concerning opportunities for women, and other issues directly affecting women's athletics.</p> <p>18 members:</p>

KEY

- Legislative path
- Playing rules path
- Communication path

- President or chancellor
- DI Council, DII Management Council or DIII Management Council member
- Student-athlete
- Experts representing fields of sports and medicine, including a coach, a sports psychologist and a sport science researcher
- Faculty athletics representative
- Athletics administrator
- Medical doctors
- Past award or scholarship winners
- General public
- Member school and conference administrators and others who work daily in college sports
- Independent director

Besides the various required roles, the NCAA also works to ensure gender, racial and geographic diversity on its committees. Many of those diversity standards are mandated by legislation.

Representatives from all three divisions sit on these Association-wide committees, which make recommendations on issues that impact the entire NCAA.



Association-wide committees can effect change by making recommendations to the Board of Governors, which has the power to set policies — such as prohibiting mascots and imagery considered hostile or abusive to Native Americans — that affect the entire Association.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is the highest governance body in the NCAA and focuses on strategic discussions that impact the Association as a whole. The committee of 21 voting members has the following responsibilities:

- Provides final approval and oversight of the NCAA's budget.
- Employs the NCAA president.
- Provides strategic planning for the Association as a whole.
- Acts on behalf of the Association by adopting and implementing policies to resolve core issues and other Association-wide matters.
- Initiates and settles litigation.
- Convenes the NCAA Convention each year.

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

- 8 presidents from Division I Football Bowl Subdivision
- 2 presidents from Division I Football Championship Subdivision
- 2 presidents from Division I schools without football
- 2 presidents from Division II
- 2 presidents from Division III
- 5 independent directors

EX OFFICIO

- Chairs of DI Council, DII Management Council and DIII Management Council
- NCAA president

Each division sets rules and policies specific to its members' needs but looks to the Board of Governors for guidance on the overall strategy of the Association.

The NCAA president is the only national office staff member who plays an active role in the governance system — as an ex officio member of the Board of Governors. The president gets one vote on the committee, and only for the purpose of breaking a tie.



Neither the Association-wide committees nor the Board of Governors has authority to enact legislation directly. But they can influence and provide guidance by recommending legislation to each division, where it can be reviewed in the divisions' legislative processes.

NCAA committees study and recommend playing rules changes for sports across all three divisions. Their recommendations are reviewed by the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel, which makes final decisions on the changes. Some sports, such as golf, fencing and gymnastics, use rules of international or national governing bodies with a few NCAA modifications approved by PROP.

Playing Rules Oversight Panel

Makes final approvals of playing rules recommendations. Composed of six representatives from Division I, three from Division II and three from Division III.

12 members:

